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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BAN KI-MOON AS HONORARY CHAIR**

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**UN Staff for Gaza is deeply honoured to announce Mr. Ban Ki-moon, 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Honorary Chair.**

We are honoured to announce that former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has agreed to serve as an Honorary Chair of UN Staff for Gaza. Former Secretary-General Ban is an exceptionally distinguished former diplomat and global statesman who served as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea and the 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of the United Nations from 2007 to 2016. From 2017 to June 2025, he was Deputy Chair of the Elders. He led the United Nations through turbulent times and oversaw the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the signing of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015. **His support for UN Staff for Gaza will be an immeasurable asset as the movement strives to speak out in defence of our common humanity and the United Nations Charter.**

**“In the face of brazen violations of international humanitarian law and actions that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity against the civilian population in Gaza, including the killing of hundreds of UN staff and humanitarian workers, it is heartening to see UN staff rally together in defense of principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and our common humanity,”** said former Secretary-General Ban. He noted that these concerns echo the principled calls made by Secretary-General António Guterres for the protection of civilians and respect for international law. **“Every additional life lost in a war that respects no rules—and with no accountability for the perpetrators of such crimes—is a nail in the coffin of a rules-based international order.”**

Secretary-General Ban’s journey with the United Nations began when, as a child displaced by the Korean War, he received food packets and educational textbooks from UNICEF. He entered the Korean foreign service in 1970, serving in a multitude of postings, including with the South Korean Mission to the United Nations and as Director of the United Nations Division within the Korean

Foreign Ministry. His assignments further included serving as Deputy Foreign Minister for Policy Planning and International Organizations, and as National Security Adviser to the President. In 1999, while serving as Permanent Representative of South Korea to International Organizations in Vienna, he was elected Chair of the United Nations Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

In 2001, Mr. Ban first became a member of United Nations Staff, as Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly. He subsequently returned to national service, as Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of South Korea. In 2004, Mr. Ban was appointed Foreign Minister and, while in this role, ran a successful campaign for selection as Secretary-General of the United Nations, succeeding Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

**Secretary-General Ban was at the helm of the Organization from 2007 to 2016. He sought to be a bridge-builder, to give voice to the world's most vulnerable, and to strengthen the Organization.** His major initiatives included placing climate change at the centre of the global agenda, culminating in the adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and in mobilizing support for a post-2015 Development Agenda, which became the Sustainable Development Goals.

He also pressed successfully for the creation of UN Women, exercised good offices in conflict-affected situations around the world, facilitated steps to strengthen peacekeeping operations, **advocated for the Responsibility to Protect**, oversaw humanitarian responses in the wake of disasters, **launched the Human Rights Up Front initiative, oversaw the adoption of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy** and mobilized support for democratic transitions in North Africa and the Middle East. **As Secretary-General, Mr. Ban was a fierce advocate for the two-State solution, for the rights of the Palestinian people, and for the legitimate security interests of Israel.**

Mr. Ban has remained a strong proponent for the foundational values of the United Nations since leaving office in 2017. He created the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, promoting global-citizenship education, and became Deputy Chair of The Elders in 2017, a group of eminent leaders who have been particularly engaged in the humanitarian situation in Gaza. In 2021, he published his memoirs, *Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World*.

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